THE SOURCE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NHDES DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM SPRING 1999

Protecting Water Sources Through Youth Education

"Our water education program has been a real success story. We've been able to educate the community in water issues, while also giving our employees an opportunity for first hand contact with the people they serve. Our program starts with emphasis on source protection."
- Dave Paris, Manchester Water Works

Throughout its history, DES's Drinking Water Source Protection Program has emphasized education as a means of source protection. The idea is that most people do not want to pollute their drinking water, and that if people were more aware of the potential threats to drinking water, they would voluntarily handle hazardous substances more responsibly.

But getting the word out to every resident and business owner in a water supply area may seem an enormous task. How can you inform your entire community about protection without making education a full time job? Most suppliers have relied on printed materials such as flyers and bill inserts. However, another approach is youth education.

Youth education has many advantages. In most cases, youth audiences are easy to reach if a water supplier can make contact with the local schools. Teachers and administrators are generally very receptive because they are always looking for ways to bring community representatives into their classrooms. Youth education also tends to be very cost-effective. A study published in the January 1998 issue of the AWWA Journal found that the average cost of youth water education programs (nine water agencies were surveyed) was 24¢ per household per year. Most importantly, however, youth education has the advantage of not stopping at the classroom door. Children who learn about drinking water in school bring the message home to parents, grandparents, siblings, and neighbors.

Water suppliers have successfully used many different types of youth education programs including classroom presentations, water festivals, water science fairs, field trips to treatment plants or pumping stations, and distributing resources to teachers, among others. The following are some examples.

Manchester - In 1990, Manchester Water Works (MWW) began incorporating youth education into its outreach program when they were contacted by a few local schools to do presentations. Since then, interest from local schools has mushroomed so that, over this past year, MWW has conducted 55 classroom presentations, distributed over

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Grants for youth education programs are available from DES. For more information about these grants or other resources to launch a youth water education program, please contact Nicole Clegg at DES, 271-4071.

Source Assessment Program Gaines Approval, Moves Ahead

DES is moving ahead with its Drinking Water Source Assessment Program (DWSAP), following USEPA's approval of DES's program plan in May. New Hampshire is the first state in New England and the third in the nation to earn approval. DWSAP staff are happy to turn their attention to implementing the plan rather than addressing plan approval issues. This summer's activity focuses on the following:

Windshield surveys - Four seasonal staff members are conducting windshield surveys through-

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Spotlight on... Littleton

Hundreds of smiling young faces, each more knowledgeable and excited about water than they were the day before -- this was the Littleton Water and Light Department's (LWL) reward for sponsoring one of the 1999 NH Drinking Water Week Festivals on May 6, 1999. Over 450 students were able to participate in the event which featured theater performances, hands-on activities, face painting, demonstrations and exhibits, and a water taste-testing contest.

According to Nicole Clegg, chairperson of the event, "The LWL staff went over and above what was expected of them to ensure the festival's success." For instance, when a question arose as to whether one school would be able to attend due to financial considerations, LWL arranged for the buses to bring those 200 students there.

"The unique thing about Littleton was that they used the event as a way to build community spirit among the water suppliers in the North Country," said Clegg. "LWL stirred up interest and friendly competition for the water taste-testing contest which pitted Littleton's water against that of Berlin, Lancaster, Lincoln, and Woodstock. They also convinced many of those water systems to do demonstrations and put up exhibits."

Each year, the NH Drinking Water Week Coalition, in conjunction with a local water supplier, sponsors the festival during National Drinking Water Week. Other festival sponsors have included Concord, Keene, Exeter, Portsmouth, and Laconia. If your water system is interested in hosting or participating in the Year 2000 Festival, contact Nicole Clegg (DES) at 271-4071.

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2500 Splash and Story of Drinking Water comic books, and given tours to 560 students. In addition, they provided training workshops to 41 area teachers, coordinated a poster contest for 230 third grade students and a water science fair for 900 fourth grade students.

Keene - When the Keene Water Department (KWD) was asked to sponsor the 1997 NH Drinking Water Week Festival, they began what would turn out to be a lasting relationship with area schools. Over the last three years, existing personnel of KWD have conducted annual classroom presentations and sponsored water science fairs for fourth graders at five local schools.

Merrimack - But you don't have to be a big water systems like Manchester or Keene in order to incorporate youth education into your business. Take Merrimack Village District (MVD), for example. In 1998, MVD obtained a $31,000 grant from DES to fund a part-time education coordinator because local youth lacked a basic knowledge about water, particularly groundwater. During the first year of this position, MVD made three presentations to each third and fourth grade classroom and sponsored a students poster contest which focused on understanding what groundwater is, what pollutes it, and what can be done to protect it.

DES Program Winds Award

USEPA Region I has recognized DES's Drinking Water Source Protection Program and in particular Sarah Pillsbury, the program's supervisor, with an Environmental Merit Award. In announcing the award, USEPA cited the fact that NH has been a national leader in the field and over 80% of the community and non-transient systems in the state are taking active measures to protect their soruces. The award was presented in a ceremont at Boston's Faneuil Hall on Earth Day (April 22).

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Closer To Home

Information for well owners and public water system customers

Consumer Confidence Repots

An educational tool of water suppliers to keep their customers informed

During the next few months, customers of community water systems (defined as any system serving at least 15 services/25 people for 365 days per year) will begin to see new reports about their drinking water arriving at their door. These reports, entitled *Consumer Confidence Reports*, are the result of the Right-To-Know provision of the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of the reports is to better inform the public about the quality and source of their drinking water.

By October 1999, community water systems are required to present information to their customers about their systems covering the year 1998, and after 1999 they will be required to produce *Consumer Confidence Reports* yearly. Most community water systems will be mailing a report to each customer, although small systems that meet certain conditions may opt to publish their reports in one or more local newspapers serving that systems's area.

What can customers expect to find within the report? At a minimum, the report will include:

1. A description of the type and location of the source or sources from which the water system obtains its water as well as a description of the treatment it undergoes, if any. (Does the water come from a lake, river, wells, or a combination of sources?)

2. A table identifying any regulated contaminants that were detected during the year, the levels at which they were detected, and an explanation of any possible health hazards posed by those contaminants.

3. A table identifying the levels of any non-regulated contaminants for which monitoring is also required.

4. References to contact for more information including the number for the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

DWSAP plan cont. from pg. 1

out the state, primarily in wellhead protection areas, for the approximately 300 community and non-transient systems that have not already conducted their own inventories of potential contamination sources under the Phase II/V chemical monitoring waiver program. The windshield surveyors are using Global Positioning units to record the locations of the inventoried land uses to make the information accessible through DES's Geographic Information System. The surveys will also be conducted in smaller water supply watersheds and in "hydrologic areas of concern" within larger watersheds

Lake studies - DES's Limnology group is conducting field studies on ten water supply lakes this summer, measuring physical, chemical, and biological parameters. Phosphorus loading studies are underway to project the impact of watershed land development on water quality.

River studies - DES hopes to complete a Joint Funding Agreement to enable the US Geological Survey to conduct dye tracer studies on 13 large water supply rivers beginning this summer. The project, which would be completed in the fall of 2000, will yield a wealth of information about travel time and pollutant dispersion under a variety of flow conditions.

Protected lands - The Society for the Protection of NH Forests gathered information under contract to DES on protected water supply lands in 1998. This summer, DES is mapping additional protected lands.

New and Readopted Rules Pertaining to Groundwater

Over the past six months, several sets of rules pertaining to groundwater and groundwater protection have been re-adopted. One set of new rules (Env-Ws 389) has also been added. The following table outlines the major changes resulting from these rulemakings. Should you have any questions abotu the new or readopted rules, please contact DES at number(s) given within the descriptions below.

Rule Number	Title	Effective Date	
Env-Ws 378	Site Selection of Small Production Wells for Community Systems	4/21/99	Community well siting regulations (formerly Env-Ws 378) have been readopted in two parts (Env-Ws 378 and Env-Ws 379). Their purpose is to ensure new wells have a sustainable yield and are located with long term protection in mind. Anyone planning a new community well should contact DES at 271-3303 for new rules and forms.
Env-Ws 379	Site Selection of Large Production Wells for Community Systems	4/21/99	
Env-Ws 389	Groundwater Sources of Bottled Water	4/5/99	DES now regulates the siting of new groundwater sources and chemical monitoring of bottled water sources (271-3303). Bottled water products continue to be regulated and monitored by the NH Department of Health and Human Services.
Env-Ws 420	Groundwater Reclassification	12/24/99	Groundwater reclassification rules which outline a process to improve protection were readopted largely unchanged (271-7061)
Env-Ws 421	Best Management Practices	2/25/99	Rules outlining practices for storage and hauling of regulated substances were readopted largely unchanged (271-3431).
Env-Ws 1500	Groundwater Discharge Permit Registration	2/25/99	Groundwater protection rules (formerly Env-Ws 410) have been readopted in two parts. Env-Ws 1500 outlines the procedures for wastewater discharges to the ground (271-2858) while Env-Wm 1403 gives the requirements for investigating, remediating, and managing contamination at sites where discharges of regulated contaminants have or could occur (271-2900).
Env-Wm 1403	Groundwater Management and Groundwater Release Detection Permits	2/25/99	

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